pesticides. There are 72 Food Testing Laboratories in the country set up by the State/UT Governments and Local Bodies besides 4 Central Food Laboratories, which are appellate laboratories under the Act, situated at Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Pune and Mysore.

Population explosion and food

†543. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population of country has crossed one thousand million;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to over population despite the efforts of Government, common man is not getting the basic facilities of food, cloth and shelter; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government to check the increasing population and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is admitted that growing population causes a strain on natural and civic resources of the country.

Various steps have been taken to stabilize the population of the country. The National Population Policy (NPP) has been adopted by Government in 2000. The National Commission on Population (NCP) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to monitor the implementation of the National Commission on Population. The National Population Stabilisation Fund (NPSF), i.e. Janasankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) has been set up as an autonomous body with a corpus of Rs. 100 crore to promote peoples' involvement in Family Welfare Programme. An Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare to give focused attention to the 8 demographically weaker States. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme was launched by Government in 1997 for provision of reproductive, maternal, child health and contraceptive services to the people. More recently, the Government has decided to launch a National Rural

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Health Mission to provide comprehensive integrated primary health services throughout the country.

The demographic indicators of the country have improved considerably. The Total Fertility Rate has declined from 6 in 1951 to 3.2 in 1999. The Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 146 in 1951 to 64 per thousand population. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined from 437 in 1992 to 407 per lakh live births. The decadal growth rate of population has declined from 24.66% (1981) to 21.34% (2001). Similarly, Annual Growth Rate of population has declined from 2.22% (1981) to 1.93% (2001).

National Institute of Preventive and Community Health

544. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up a National Institute of Preventive and Community Health on the lines of IIT and IIM to train specialists in preventive and community health;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the said institute, apart from giving training;

(c) the number of such institutions which are going to be located in the country; and

(d) whether Government had any plan to start such institute in Andhra Pradesh keeping in view the development and the excellent health infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the policy of good public health professionals in the country, it is being explored as to how to strengthen the architecture of public health in India by establishing new institutes of public health of excellence of the level IITs and IIMs and upscaling the existing institutions which provide training in public health. For this purpose, the Planning Commission has already accorded in principle approval for setting up of Public Health schools in India during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Detailed action plan is being formulated.